BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-03 January 18th, 2013

- **Sales of goods manufactured in B.C. rose 1.2% in November**
- **Student enrolment in public schools in British Columbia fell 1.0% in 2010/2011**
- **The number of EI beneficiaries in B.C. declined 0.7% in November**

The Economy

- **Sales of goods manufactured in the province rose 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November, the second increase in as many months.** Sales by manufacturers of durable goods advanced 1.1%, reflecting an improvement in the wood industry (+1.2%), and a rebound in sales by producers of fabricated metal products (+7.0%), following three months of decline.

  Manufacturers of non-durable goods saw sales expand 1.2%. Gains in food (+0.9%), paper (+0.3%), and other non-durable goods-producing industries were partly offset by a drop in sales by producers of chemical (–0.4%) and plastics & rubber (–4.9%) products.

  Canadian shipments climbed 1.7% in November, with six provinces recording increases. Strong sales in Ontario (+3.8%), B.C. (+1.2%), New Brunswick (+11.7%), and Manitoba (+0.5%) were offset by declines in Quebec (–0.9%) Alberta (–1.8%), and Saskatchewan (–0.4%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in non-residential buildings in B.C. climbed (+5.4% to $1.4 billion, *seasonally adjusted*) in the fourth quarter, bolstered by activity in Vancouver.** Spending on new industrial (+10.2%) and commercial (+7.8%) buildings in the province was robust, together managing to offset declines in the institutional & government (-2.1%) sector. Non-residential building construction activity showed strength in Vancouver (+10.5%), rising to $832 million. On the other hand, investment slipped in Kelowna (–7.1% to $44 million), Victoria (-4.4% to $88 million) and Abbotsford-Mission (-3.2% to $46 million).

  Nationally, non-residential construction expenditures grew 1.0% in the fourth quarter, marking the third consecutive quarterly increase. In terms of dollar value, Quebec recorded the biggest increase (+3.8% to $2.2 billion), followed by British Columbia. Conversely, spending was down most significantly in Ontario (-0.8% to $4.8 billion) and Alberta (-0.5% to $2.3 billion).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia slowed (-2.0% *seasonally adjusted*) in November, adding to a 3.9% decline recorded in October.** Fewer overseas- and North American-built cars and trucks rolled off dealership lots.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **The number of Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries receiving regular benefits in British Columbia inched down 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) between October and November.** Nationally, the number of people collecting regular EI benefits was down 0.8% in November.

  Compared to November 2011, this number dropped 7.1% with 21 of the 25 population centres in British Columbia recording a decline in the number of recipients.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Education

- **In the 2010/11 school year, enrolment in British Columbia public elementary and secondary schools was 557,104, down 1.0%**

Report — No report this issue

Did you know...

The majority (39%) of Canucks fans in B.C. think the team will make the playoffs this year, but make a quick exit, while 10% think the Canucks will win the Stanley Cup.

Source: Ipsos-Reid

from 2009/10 (based on headcount enrolments), and 3.7% lower than in 2006/07. Public school enrolment in the province declined in every year over this period. While B.C.'s overall population expanded 6.1% between 2007 and 2011, the school aged population (aged 5 to 17) decreased (-3.6%) over the same period. Total expenditures per student in B.C. public elementary and secondary schools amounted to $10,397 (in 2002 constant dollars) in 2010/11. This was down 1.2% from the previous year, but remained notably higher (+7.4%) than in 2006/07.

Data Source: SC, Catalogue 81-595-XIE

- **Nationally, the number of students enrolled at public schools has also decreased, and stood at less than 5.1 million in the 2010/11 school year (-2.1% from 2006/07).** Saskatchewan (+1.8%) and Alberta (+2.3%) were the only two jurisdictions to see enrolment increases. Overall, enrolment declined in Atlantic Canada faster than in other parts of the country. This is consistent with population estimates, which show that the school-aged population (aged 5 to 17) shrunk at similar rates over the same period.

Data Source: SC, Catalogue 81-595-XIE

- **Although total enrolment across Canada continued to drop off, second language immersion programs in public elementary and secondary schools saw steady boosts in enrolment every year since the 2006/07 school year.** Similarly, despite declining enrolments across the country, the total number of educators (full-time equivalent) continues to increase. In the 2010/11 school year, there were approximately 340,423 educators in Canada, up 3.2% from 2006/07. In B.C., however, the number of educators has declined significantly (-3.7%) over the same period.

Data Source: SC, Catalogue 81-595-XIE

The Nation

- **Canadians acquired $7.8 billion in foreign securities in November, bringing year-to-date overall purchases to a total of $29.3 billion.** Compared to the same period of 2011, foreign security purchases were approximately $13.8 billion higher in 2012. Canadian investment in foreign money market instruments dropped $59 million in November while bond acquisitions reached $6.2 billion, more than twice the value of the previous two months combined.

  Foreign investment in Canadian securities totalled $5.6 billion in November, primarily due to acquisitions of government money market instruments ($3.3 billion) and corporate bonds ($2.9 billion). Investment in Canadian government bonds fell $1.1 billion, as federal bonds totalled $2.0 billion, while the transaction value of other government bonds contracted $3.1 billion.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Large Canadian retailers saw a 2.6% increase (*unadjusted*) in total commodity sales in November, compared to the same month last year.** Robust sales of food and beverages (+6.1%), namely fruits and vegetables (+9.1%) and dairy and eggs (+6.8%), together with strong health and personal care product (+1.4%) sales were behind the increase. Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories (-0.6%) edged down slightly, following three months of growth. Furniture, home furnishing and electronics sales dropped 1.0%, marking the eleventh straight month of decline.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Nov 2012	3,297	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2012	2,742	0.2
Retail Sales - Oct 2012	5,097	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.1	1.2
Vancouver	0.2	1.4
Victoria	-0.2	1.1
Canada	0.8	1.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	0.6	
Labour Force - BC	2,474.3	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,313.3	0.0
Unemployed - BC	161.0	-3.9
		Nov 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.5	6.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 16/2013	Jan 18/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 16/2013	Jan 18/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9850	1.0140
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0141	0.9889
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2012	one year ago
BC	868.09	1.5
Canada	873.15	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Employment Insurance

To Release next week

- Consumer Price Index, December 2012

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